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REIGN OF HENRY II. 1156.

STRONGBOW invades *Ireland*, lays siege to *Wexford*, and takes it. Others land at *Waterford*, which they make themselves masters of, and take *Dublin* by assault. RODERIC, of *Ireland*, with 30,000 men, besiege *Dublin*, but the English put this army to the rout, and chased them off the field with great slaughter. HENRY also landed in *Ireland* with 500 knights and other soldiers; he soon received homage of his new subjects, and, after a few months, returned to *England*.

REIGN OF EDWARD II. 1326.

QUEEN ISABELLA, with foreign aid, lands an army, on the *coast of Suffolk*, against her husband; and, by her lying pretences, seduced the nation into a rebellion against their sovereign, whom they dethroned, and afterwards put to death in the most shocking and cruel manner.

REIGN OF EDWARD IV. 1470.

EARL OF WARWICK lands a small body of troops at *Dartmouth*, who, by his popularity, drew multitudes to his standard, and, in a few days, his army amounted to 60,000 men. EDWARD was in the north, but hastened southward to encounter him, when, on account of treachery, he was urged to make his escape; he fled to the sea-side, and embarked on-board a ship for *Holland*, and WARWICK, in eleven days from his landing, was left master of the kingdom.

1471.

EDWARD, with a small fleet, made an attempt to land his forces on the *coast of Norfolk*, but was repulsed. He sails northward, and disembarks at *Ravenspur*, in *Yorkshire*; is joined by his partisans; he escapes WARWICK by going a different road; marches to *London*; and gains admittance. Soon after, a general battle takes place near *Barnet*, in which WARWICK was slain, and the chief part of his army.

The same day this decisive battle was fought, QUEEN MARGARET and her son, with French forces, landed at *Weymouth*, against EDWARD; collects an army, marches to *Tewkesbury*, a battle takes place, 300 fall, and the rest are dispersed. QUEEN MARGARET and her son are taken prisoners; her son is killed, and herself put in the Tower.

REIGN OF RICHARD III. 1485.

EARL of RICHMOND, with 2,000 men, land at *Milford-Haven*, march through the country, arrive at *Bosworth*, near *Leicester*. A decisive battle is fought; RICHARD, with 4,000 of his men, was killed. His body was afterwards found, thrown across a horse, carried to *Leicester*, and interred in *Greyfriers' Church*.

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LAMBERT SIMNEL, pretended Earl of Warwick, with an Irish army, and SWART, of *Germany*, with 2,000 Germans, land at *Foudrey*, in *Lancashire*; march to *Stoke*; a decisive battle was fought; SWART, with 4,000 men, perished in the field, and SIMNEL was taken prisoner.

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PERKIN WARBEC, with 600 men, outlaws, pirates, robbers, &c. land on the *coast of Kent*. The Kentish troops fell upon them, slew several, and took 150 prisoners.

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PERKIN WARBEC lands at *Bodmin*, in *Cornwall*; is joined by 3,000 of the populace, but, by the alacrity of HENRY in raising an immense army and marching against him, causes WARBEC to despair of success; he retreats, and the Cornish rebels accept of the king's mercy. WARBEC is taken, is conducted to London, set in the stocks, then confined in the Tower. He afterwards attempts to escape, is discovered, tried, and hanged at Tyburn.

REIGN OF HENRY VIII. 1545.

THE FRENCH, with a fleet of 200 sail, besides galleys, and land-forces on-board, came to the *Isle of Wight*; the English fleet, of about 100 sail, cannonades and disperses them.

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fort at *Kerry*; after some assaults, he surrenders; all the Spaniards and Italians are put to the sword, and 1,[illegible]00 of the Irish, who had joined them, are hanged.

1588.

THE SPANISH ARMADA, consisting of 130 large vessels, with 19,295 soldiers, 8,456 marines, [illegible]080 galley-slaves, and 2,630 great pieces of brass ordnance, attended by 20 smaller ships, &c. made the *Lizard*, July 29; but, being evening, they bore out to sea, intending to return next day and attack the English navy. EFFINGHAM discovers them, together with DRAKE; who, joined by other ships, keep continually infesting them with skirmishes until they reach *Calais*, and anchor in hopes of being joined by the DUKE OF PARMA. The English Admiral took eight of his smaller ships, filled them with combustible materials, and sent them into the midst of the enemy, which caused them to cut their cables, and fly in great disorder. The English fell on them next morning; took, destroyed, and damaged, many of their ships; a violent storm overtook them; and the chief part that remained were wrecked on the coasts of Scotland and Ireland.

1601.

DON JOHN DE AQUILA, with 4,000 men, arrives at *Kinsale*, in *Ireland*. MOUNTJOY collected his forces, and laid siege to *Kinsale* by land, while SIR RICHARD LEVISON blockaded it by sea. The operations were scarcely begun, when another body of 2,000 Spaniards arrived, and took possession of *Baltimore* and *Berehaven*. A battle takes place, the Spaniards are put to flight, 1,200 of their men slain, and they were obliged to evacuate the kingdom.

THE COMMONWEALTH. 1652.

VAN TROMP, a Dutch Admiral, fixes a broom at his mast-head, being, as he asserted, determined to sweep the seas of all English vessels. Great preparations were made in *England* against him. BLAKE had the command of a fleet of 80 sail; they descried, near *Portland*, the Dutch fleet, of 76 sail, with 300 merchantmen. TROMP and BLAKE brought their fleets to action, and it proved the most furious battle that was ever fought between the two nations. It lasted three days, when BLAKE became victor. The Dutch lost 11 ships of war and 30 merchantmen, 2,000 of their men were slain, and near 1,500 taken prisoners. The English fleet were extremely shattered, and one ship was sunk; their slain was not much inferior to the Dutch.

REIGN OF CHARLES II. 1666.

DE RUYTER, with a Dutch fleet, sails up the river *Thames*, takes *Sheerness*, and, having the advantage of a spring-tide and easterly wind, pushed on, and broke the chain which had been drawn across the river *Medway*. They burned the three ships that lay to guard the chain; they advanced with six men of war and five fire-ships to *Upnor-Castle*, where they burned three men of war; they fell down the *Medway* without receiving any considerable damage; the whole country was in violent agitation; nine ships were sunk at *Woolwich*, four at *Blackwall*, and platforms were raised, in many places, furnished with artillery, being in expectation the Dutch might extend their hostilities even to *London-Bridge*. They next sailed to *Portsmouth*, and made a fruitless attempt; they met with no better success at *Plymouth*; they insulted *Harwich*; they sailed again up the *Thames* as far as *Tilbury*, where they were repulsed. All these disasters happened in consequence of CHARLES, imagining peace was nearly concluded, remitting his preparations, and having only two small squadrons equipped. Thus was *England* exposed to one of the greatest affronts it has ever received.

REIGN OF JAMES II. 1685.

MONMOUTH lands at *Lime*, in *Dorsetshire*, with scarcely 100 followers; but, so popular was his name, that, in four days, he had assembled above 2,000 horse and foot. They were nearly all of the lowest of the people. The DUKE OF ALBEMARLE went against him, with 4,000 men, who was joined by CHURCHILL. A battle takes place; MONMOUTH is obliged to give way; 1,500 of his men fall; he flies for his life; is found in disguise in a ditch; is afterwards beheaded.

ARGYLE arrives in *Argyleshire*, in *Scotland*. He arms 2,500 men; but, being overpowered, he is taken, carried to *Edinburgh*, and executed.

1688.

PRINCE OF ORANGE, after being invited over to *England*, arrives with a fleet of near 500 vessels, and an army of 14,000 men; lands at *Torbay*, marches for *London*; soon after, JAMES disappears in the night-time, goes on-board a ship, and leaves the kingdom. The next year, the crown is settled on the PRINCE and PRINCESS OF ORANGE.

REIGN OF WILLIAM AND MARY. 1689.

JAMES, with a fleet of 14 French ships of the line, 7 frigates, 3 fire-ships and transports, lands at *Kinsale*, in *Ireland*; is received with open arms. He makes a public entry into *Dublin*, is met by the Popish bishops and priests bearing the Host, which he publicly adored. ROSENE, the French general, commanded the army, and ordered the Protestants, for 30 miles round, to be stripped, and drove before his dragoons like cattle, not sparing aged men, women, or children. Above 4,000 were driven in this manner under the walls of *Londonderry*.

DUKE OF SCHOMBERG lands near *Carrickfergus*, with about 10,000 foot and dragoons, against JAMES; is afterwards killed in a battle.

REIGN OF GEORGE II. 1745.

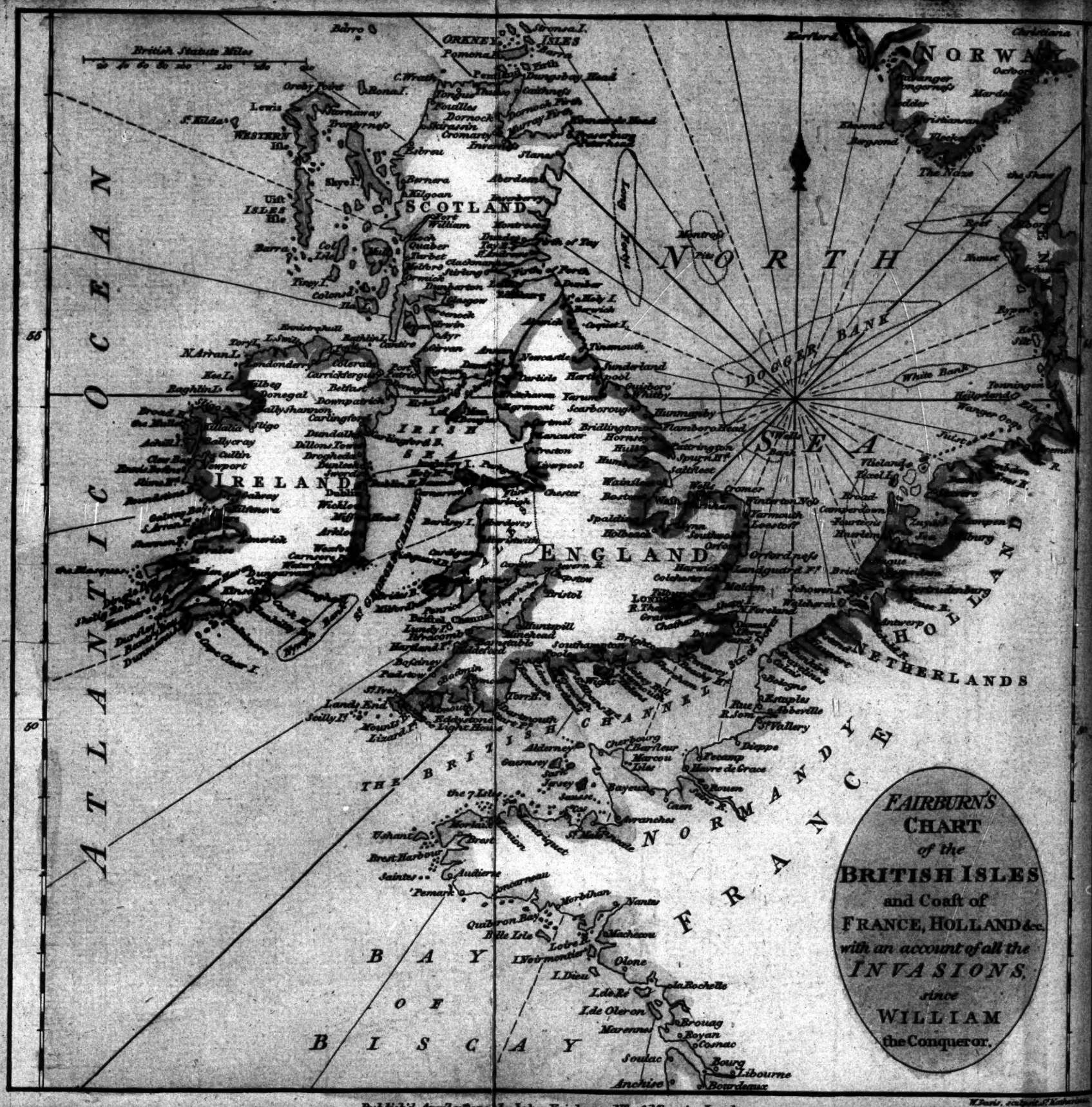
THE YOUNG PRETENDER lands on the *Western Islands of Scotland*, is joined by several of the natives, takes possession of *Edinburgh*, gains the battle of *Preston-Pans*, takes *Carlisle*, and marches as far as *Derby*; is afterwards defeated, by the DUKE OF CUMBERLAND, at *Culloden*; is pursued into *Scotland*; escapes, in disguise, on-board a ship, and arrives in *France*.

REIGN OF GEORGE III. 1796.

THE FRENCH attempt to invade *Ireland*; anchor at *Bantry-Bay*; but were dispersed by a storm.

1797.

THE FRENCH landed 1,200 men near *Fishguard-Bay*, in *Wales*, who surrendered prisoners two days after,


FAIRBURN'S
CHART
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NORMANDY
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ENGLISH CHANNEL
IRISH SEA
British Statute Miles
Published April 21st 1794 by John Fairburn N.° 146 Minories London.

Invasion of Britain.

AN

ADDRESS

TO THE

PEOPLE OF GREAT BRITAIN,

ON THE SUBJECT OF A

FRENCH INVASION.

DULCE ET DECORUM EST PRO PATRIA MORI.

BY A PATRIOT.

ILLUSTRATED WITH A CHART EXHIBITING THE BRITISH ISLES, AND THE COAST OF FRANCE, HOLLAND, &c. WITH AN ACCOUNT OF ALL THE INVASIONS SINCE WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR.

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1798.

[PRICE ONE SHILLING.]

BRITISH MUSEUM

An ADDRESS, &c.

WHEN we turn our attention to the war which hath ſo long deſolated the continent of Europe, which hath drained the treaſures of our own country, and robbed it of the flower of its youth, we cannot help dropping a tear over the calamities to which mankind are ſubject, and behold, with regret, the little animoſities of a few individuals involving whole nations in univerſal diſtreſs. But, however deſtructive the effects which our country has experienced from the war, the horrid ravages of a foreign enemy laying waſte our fields, burning our houſes and our cities, has been ſtill kept at a diſtance; and we have been ſtill left to enjoy our poſſeſſions in tranquillity, without dread of being moleſted. But the period is, perhaps, not far diſtant, when even this tranquil iſland will be rouſed from its lethargy with the cries of diſtreſs, occaſioned by the unfeeling hands of an invading enemy; and the reports which have of late been circulated, reſpecting an invaſion of this country by the French, have either found no credit with the public or been treated with contempt. It

would be preſumption in the extreme to aſſert that this general opinion is ſupported by no argument, and that the public form notions without any degree of reaſon or plauſibility; but, in a free country, at leaſt where liberty of thinking is allowed, every individual has a right to inquire whether arguments are ſolid and reaſonable, before he is under the neceſſity of giving his aſſent to the doctrine which they ſupport. Preſuming upon this right, I have always conſidered this threatened invaſion of Britain as deſerving ſome degree of credit, and as poſſeſſing at leaſt probability. Many reaſons concur to ſupport this opinion.

The hiſtory of the preſent war will convince us, that the French are not incapable of a bold or even deſperate undertaking, and their ſucceſs has been owing, in a great meaſure, to the vigorous exertions which they have made, and the many bold projects which they have formed and purſued with indefatigable induſtry.

They are at this moment diſengaged from every continental enemy: their troops and their commanders, fluſhed with honour and with victory, will be eaſily convinced that they are capable of overcoming every obſtacle and every danger, and of ſucceeding in the boldeſt and moſt hazardous attempts. In their opinion, the invaſion of Britain will only open a new field of honour to crown their exertions.

The members of the French convention have dictated a peace to the continent of Europe, and have eſtabliſhed it on their own terms. Britain now appears to them the only audacious and refractory foe,

 that

that reſiſts the victorious arms of the republic, and refuſes to accede to a peace dictated by the great nation.

Our naval victories have taught them that they are unable to withſtand us on the watery element, and the only probability of ſucceſs therefore remains in conveying their land-forces upon our ſhores. How this conveyance is to be ſafely accompliſhed remains a difficulty, which I hope they will never be able to ſurmount.

Our newſpapers have of late been filled with chimerical plans invented by the French for overcoming this formidable difficulty; but their late expedition to Bantry-Bay, and the return of their ſhips into port, having eluded the vigorous outlook of our navy, is ſufficient to convince us of at leaſt the poſſibility of landing forces upon this iſland in the common manner, without having recourſe to balloons or to rafts; and the threatened invaſion, therefore, would ſeem to deſerve more ſerious attention than is generally imagined.

But I would not have my countrymen imagine that I wiſh to inculcate upon their minds the leaſt degree of terror: very far from it. There is a medium between fear and abſolute neglect; that medium it becomes us to purſue.

In a caſe of ſuch importance, if there is even a poſſibility of the enemy effecting their purpoſe, we ought to pay it that attention which it deſerves, and make the moſt vigorous preparations for their reception. On the other hand, it would be beneath the dignity

and

and bravery of Britons to give way to fear, or to dread the threats of a foreign enemy. Every one of my countrymen, I hope, feels a contempt for the hoſtile intentions of the enemy, while an ardour for the cauſe of his country glows within his breaſt, and a determined reſolution to reſiſt the invading foe with vigour, ſhould they have the audacity to put their threats in execution.

Since there appears a great probability that the enemy will, perhaps, ſoon execute their plan of invaſion, need I aſk how we are to act in ſuch a perilous ſituation? If we wiſh to defend our native ſoil, immediate exertions are required.

The queſtion is not now whether the war is juſtifiable, or whether it is hurtful to our country. Theſe queſtions do not at preſent demand our inveſtigation. We are called upon at this juncture, by every principle of duty, to exert our utmoſt efforts to repel the attacks of a daring invader, and defend our native country with bravery and with vigour.

I do not wiſh at this time to inveſtigate the cauſes from which the preſent war had its origin, or to enter upon a vindication of the conduct and proceedings of Miniſters during its proſecution. Its conſequences have, no doubt, been ſeverely felt by every inhabitant of this iſland; but, when I look backward upon the years that are lately paſt, I cannot help regretting the many diſſenſions and differences of opinion which hath univerſally prevailed among the inhabitants of this country; at the ſame time I feel a kind of pleaſure in the contemplation, that theſe diſ-

ſenſions

ſenſions among my countrymen are merely ſpeculative, and that even the moſt violent ſupporters of a parliamentary reform are no leſs the lovers of their country, than thoſe who argue for the neceſſity of the war and of the conduct of the preſent adminiſtration.

Feel the neceſſity, then, my countrymen, of reconciling every animoſity that may have of late prevailed. And you, in particular, who have all along, through difference of opinion, been thought inimical to the preſent government, ſtand forward, and ſhew to the reſt of your countrymen that you are at preſent to overlook every ſentimental difference, and maintain the honour and freedom of your country at the expenſe of your lives.

Conſider the important privileges for which you have now to contend. It is not now a conteſt of honour between kings or ſtateſmen, or for the recovery or maintenance of ſome mercantile privilege, it is to become a conteſt for every thing that is dear to you, or which can render you happy through life.

Your religion, my countrymen, calls loudly for you to reſiſt the threatened invaſion.

In the confined limits of a pamphlet it would be improper to enter upon a diſcuſſion of the merits of the Chriſtian religion or of the arguments by which it is ſupported. Theſe I hope are ſo familiar to you all, that ſuch a diſcuſſion would be alſo unneceſſary. To thoſe who are convinced of its truth and of its merits, can I urge a more powerful motive to rouſe them to action at this critical juncture?

Should

Should the French prove ſucceſsful, one neceſſary and immediate conſequence of that ſucceſs is, the abolition of the eſtabliſhed religion of this country, and an unbounded licenſe afforded to every ſpecies of immorality. They have declared war not againſt one ſect of Chriſtians, but againſt every principle of the Chriſtian religion: of whatever ſect, therefore, you are of, you, at leaſt, believe the general doctrines of this religion; it therefore becomes you to diſregard every little queſtion and opinion, and unite together againſt the common foe. To thoſe who are not ſo fully convinced of the truth of the Chriſtian religion, I would urge, that it is a religion which, whether true or falſe, has been eſtabliſhed in our country for many centuries, and has been handed down to us by the blood of many of our anceſtors; a religion poſſeſſing the merit of being the leaſt ſuperſtitious of any yet eſtabliſhed; a religion practiſed and defended by the greateſt literati of our country, and whoſe opinions command univerſal reſpect. Is this religion, my countrymen, to be overturned by a foreign invader? and would you ſit quietly at eaſe and obſerve the ſmoke of your churches aſcending to the clouds, thoſe houſes which you have, in a manner, conſecrated to the Deity? How would your venerable anceſtors upbraid you, could they be rouſed from the dead: they who ſo zealouſly defended the ſame religion, and handed it down to their poſterity, at the expenſe of their lives and in ſpite of every oppoſition.

No, my countrymen, if you are to change your religion, do it by general conſent among yourſelves, and

do

do not ſuffer yourſelves, in a cowardly and daſtardly manner, to be compelled to it by an invading enemy.

Your ſyſtem of government, my countrymen, comes next under conſideration, and ought to excite you to a vigorous defence.

To enter upon an inveſtigation of the ſpirit and principles of the Britiſh government, would lead me beyond the limits which this ſhort addreſs hath preſcribed.

Our ſyſtem of government hath long been the envy and admiration of Europe, and hath, perhaps, arrived at the greateſt perfection of any which ever hath had exiſtence.

There hath as yet never been, and, moſt probably, never will be, a form of government completely perfect: each hath always poſſeſſed its particular faults. But, ſuch is the improved form of the Britiſh conſtitution, that the three favourite forms of government, monarchy, ariſtocracy, and democracy, are ſo blended together, that the faults of the one are counter-balanced by the advantages of the other.

The tyranny and oppreſſion of a monarchy are ſuppreſſed and counteracted by the power which is lodged in the hands of the people; the feuds and turbulence of the nobility are overawed by the authority of the crown; and the confuſion of popular elections guarded againſt by the ſovereign and the nobles.

Under ſuch a refined conſtitution you ſit with eaſe and freedom; nor is the pooreſt among you neceſſarily ſubſervient to the rich or powerful. If you are in-

filted or trampled upon by your ſuperiors in power, the free and excellent laws of our country are open to receive and redreſs the grievances of the moſt inſignificant ſubject, and will puniſh with juſt ſeverity any tyrannical inſolence. The property of every individual is ſecured and protected from the encroachments of thoſe in higher authority, and we ſit with eaſe and freedom in our habitations without the dread of being inſulted or moleſted. Our great men are often obliged to aſk favours of the loweſt claſſes of the people, and court with aſſiduity popular applauſe. In this free country merit meets with that reward which is its due and with that reſpect which it univerſally commands.

Other nations may contemplate and admire this beautiful and highly-improved ſyſtem, the work of ages, and exertions of our intelligent anceſtors; but to enjoy its privileges belongs only to Britons.

The government of France, which, ſhould our antagoniſts be ſucceſsful, will neceſſarily be eſtabliſhed in this country, however free in appearance, is not without many diſadvantages: it is diveſted of that ſtability which our government poſſeſſes, and is continually ſubject to innumerable changes, each producing confuſion and bloodſhed. I cannot entertain the idea of ſuch a change in this country without dropping a tear over the miſeries to which you, my countrymen, will then be ſubject.

Turn your eyes towards the continent of Europe, and view with attention the treatment of thoſe ſtates which have been reduced by the ſucceſsful arms of the

French

French republic. After enduring all the cruelties and hardſhips which muſt neceſſarily be experienced by the inhabitants of a country, the immediate ſeat of battle, Holland, Genoa, and Rome, have all been ſucceſſively obliged to renounce their independence, overturn their government, ſubſcribe to the humiliating terms offered by the French Directory, and levy the moſt rigid contributions to ſupply the wants and ſupport the arms and grandeur of the French republic.

What a humiliating appearance does Rome, the ancient capital of the univerſe, now exhibit to our view: a city which formerly ſwayed its ſceptre over the whole world, a city whoſe ancient inhabitants made many a ſtruggle for the maintenance of their liberty, and conſidered it as much more precious than their own exiſtence. But their degenerate offſpring have yielded it up to the arms of the French without a ſtruggle for its preſervation.

Theſe examples on the continent point out what miſeries await for you, my countrymen, ſhould the French prove ſucceſsful in their attempts upon this iſland.

The kingdom of Great Britain, which hath long been reſpected and admired throughout Europe, annexed as a province to France, will loſe its wonted ſway, will drop into obſcurity, and be treated by the victorious enemy with indignity and as a conquered country.

While you, the inhabitants, unworthy of your brave anceſtors, and unworthy of the liberty which they have handed down to a degenerate poſterity, will

be a reproach to your future offspring, and your names and your actions will be related in the annals of hiſtory an eternal monument of deriſion. When your eyes are turned towards the continent, the brave and heroic nation of the Swiſs muſt command your attention and eſteem.

That people, who have all along obſerved a ſtate of neutrality, and have kept aloof from the noiſe of war and din of arms, are at laſt obliged, through dire neceſſity, to aſſume the warlike weapon, and defend their freedom againſt the attacks of a powerful and tyrannical foe.

They have not, however, given up their independence, or abandoned their liberty, without attempting what heroiſm will effect. They ſeem at preſent determined to maintain, againſt the power of French arms, the honour and independence of their anceſtors.

Who can view their preſent operations without ſincerely wiſhing that ſucceſs to bravery and patriotiſm which they muſt ever deſerve, and without feeling a deſire to imitate ſo heroic an example?

Your aged and infirm parents, your wives, your children, and friends, call upon you for defence.

How will you behold your aged parents ſubjected to the inſults of a licentious ſoldiery, who, accuſtomed to blood and cruelty, will not be eaſily moved by pity?

How will you behold your wives raviſhed, or hear the cries of your infant children about to be murdered before your eyes? You will then be unable to lend them aſſiſtance, or perhaps to ſave yourſelves.

But

But I hope theſe ſcenes ſtrike you with their due force, without my painting them in any moving colours. In order to rouſe you, my countrymen, ſtill farther to defend the freedom and honour of your country, I would call your attention to the hiſtory of the moſt renowned nations of antiquity, where many examples worthy of your imitation are exhibited to view.

May I therefore beg your attention, while I briefly relate the noble and patriotic reſiſtance made by the ancient Greeks to defend their liberty and their country againſt the efforts of the Perſian empire; an example which deſerves your particular attention, and is worthy of your imitation.

This celebrated invaſion of Greece by Darius and his ſucceſſor Xerxes, emperor of Perſia, had its origin from the following cauſes:

A number of Greeks, long before the reign of Darius, had emigrated from their mother-country, and ſettled on the coaſt of Aſia. Theſe colonies were firſt ſubdued by Cræſus, a Lydian prince, who, amidſt their internal broils and diſſenſions, had attacked and reduced them under his own dominion.

Under the happy government, however, of this prince, they were not doomed long to ſit. About this time, the Perſian empire, under the elder Cyrus, began to ſpread its authority over the whole of Aſia. The dominions of Cræſus, of courſe, were overturned and annexed to the ſovereignty of Perſia, and the Grecian colonies, at that time ſubject to the Lydian prince, were reduced under the ſame deſpotical ſway.

The Greek colonies remained under the government of Perſia till the reign of Darius; but, while that prince was engaged in other conqueſts, they were excited to revolt from under his dominion. Conſcious, however, that, without ſome foreign aſſiſtance, they were unable to reſiſt the power of the Perſian empire or maintain the freedom which they fought; they, therefore, petitioned the aſſiſtance of their mother-country, by means of Miltiades, an Athenian. The Athenians, naturally fond of liberty, generouſly ſent aſſiſtance to a people graſping at freedom, and who had revolted from under a tyrannical yoke.

Succeſs, however, did not attend the undertaking. The Grecians were defeated. The colonies were again reduced under the yoke of Darius, and many of the inhabitants were maſſacred or dragged into captivity.

The inſurgents on the Aſiatic coaſt were no ſooner reduced, than Darius prepared to take vengeance upon thoſe Grecian ſtates who aſſiſted them in their revolt.

Mardonius, a Perſian nobleman of the firſt rank, was appointed commander-in-chief of this armament deſtined againſt the Greeks, whoſe ſhores he approached with a force ſufficient to ſtrike them with terror. Fortunately, however, for that people, before he reached the place of his deſtination, his fleet was overtaken by a violent ſtorm, and almoſt deſtroyed.

This diſaſter put a ſtop to the preſent expedition, though not to the revenge and future reſolutions of Darius.

In

In the room of Mardonius, two generals were choſen, Datis and Artaphernes. In a ſhort time Darius placed under their command an army of 500,000 of the flower of the Perſian youth, with a ſufficient number of ſhips of war and of tranſports.

This prodigious force ſoon ſubdued the iſlands in their courſe through the Ægean Sea; and, more fortunate than their predeceſſors under Mardonius, they arrived ſafe upon the coaſt of Attica.

With about 100,000 infantry and a conſiderable number of cavalry, ſelected from the main body of their force, the Perſian generals landed upon the plains of Marathon, a few leagues diſtant from Athens.

The Athenians, in the mean time, having notice of the immenſe force that approached with hoſtile intentions to their liberty and their country, did not give way to puſillanimity, nor ſued for peace and for ſlavery, but bravely prepared to meet the impending ſtorm.

A choſen band, amounting only to 10,000 freemen, and probably a like number of ſlaves, under the command of ten generals, marched boldly from the city, and took poſſeſſion of a riſing ground in the neighbourhood of the Perſian army.

Ariſtides, one of the Grecian commanders, ſenſible of the inconvenience of ſo many generals poſſeſſing equal command in the ſame army, at the ſame time conſcious of the ſuperior knowledge and merit of Miltiades, another of their commanders, generouſly, and with that diſintereſtedneſs which ever characteriſes

true

true patriotism, resigned his authority to that celebrated man, and his illustrious example was followed by the other generals. Miltiades, now left at full liberty to exert his superior genius and talents for the safety of his country, drew up his army in form of battle in the most skilful manner.

The Persian generals were too confident of their own superior force to decline the engagement.

The battle was begun on the part of the Athenians with that ardour which patriotism and the love of liberty constantly inspire; an onset which it was impossible the feeble Persians, animated by no such laudable principles, could resist, notwithstanding the great superiority of their numbers. Victory soon decided in favour of the Athenians. The bravest of the Persians were slaughtered in the field, while the rest, struck with amazement and terror, took refuge in their ships, not daring to enter and defend their camp.

This decisive victory, obtained by a handful of patriots, over an innumerable band of invaders, finally concluded the second expedition of Darius against Greece.

That monarch, however, was still far from being diverted from his dire purpose of revenge. Revolts and disturbances in his own provinces retarded his resolutions during the remainder of his life; but his successor Xerxes, who inherited his dominion, his power, and his pride, inherited also his resolution of conquering Greece, and of spreading his arms over Europe.

As

As ſoon as relaxation was given to his arms by the reduction of the revolted provinces, Xerxes made vigorous preparations for the invaſion of Greece; and devoted the ſpace of four years for the accompliſhment of preparations additional to thoſe made during the three laſt years of the reign of Darius.

This prodigious armament, we are told, amounted to near 2,000,000 men bearing arms; but, happy for Greece, its ſtrength bore no proportion to its magnitude. This immenſe force, as ſoon as completed, began to move ſlowly forward towards the coaſt of Europe; whither it was ſoon ſafely conducted.

During the march of Xerxes with this innumerable band, the ſpeedy and daily ſubmiſſion of many of the Grecian ſtates added new hopes to the ſucceſs of his undertaking, if any farther confidence could be added to that which he before entertained.

Having conducted this monarch to the place of his deſtination, enjoying the ſubmiſſion of cowardice and the near proſpect of the completion of his views, let us turn our attention to the operations of a people, undaunted at the ſtorm which approached, and preparing for a vigorous defence.

A few of the Grecian ſtates, who diſdained, in a cowardly manner, to ſubmit to the arms of the haughty monarch of the Eaſt, who obeyed the voice of liberty, of duty, and of glory; by common conſent, agreed to ſuſpend their internal broils and animoſities, and mutually reſiſt the common foe.

Theſe confederates, with the utmoſt activity, manned a conſiderable fleet, and raiſed an army conſiſting of about 60,000 freemen, with a number of armed ſlaves. A ſmall force indeed, when we conſider the immenſe body of men with whom they had to contend.

The Greeks directed their attention particularly to guard the Straights of Thermopylæ, a paſſage leading into the interior parts of Greece; and formed on one ſide by inacceſſible precipices, and on the other by a deep moraſs. The important charge was committed to Leonidas, the king of Sparta.

The Perſian monarch had taken his ſtation in the neighbourhood of his fleet, adjacent to this paſſage; and, having now laid under contribution all Macedon and the greateſt part of Greece, he looked with contempt upon thoſe few ſtates and that ſmall ſpot of country which ſeemed prepared to reſiſt his army. When he ſent meſſengers to Athens to deſire the Athenians to lay down their arms, their undaunted reply was, Let him come and take them! and, upon being offered lands on condition of their becoming allies to the Perſian monarch, they anſwered, that it was their cuſtom to conquer lands by valour, not to obtain them by treachery.

Xerxes waited a few days, in hopes that the Greeks would deliver up their arms, and allow him a free paſſage through the Straights of Thermopylæ. This delay, however, he ſoon perceived was vain, and accordingly reſolved to force the paſſage. A ſtrong party of the braveſt of his troops were ſelected for that purpoſe, and they marched from the Perſian camp with

with a confidence inſpired by ſuperior force. The firſt attack convinced them of the diſpoſition of the people with whom they had to encounter. Notwithſtanding the freſh ſupplies that were conſtantly ſent, in place of the fatigued and of the ſlain, they were unable to penetrate the firm and brave band of the Greeks. Other parties of the Perſian army made the attempt at different times with equal or inferior ſucceſs.

While Xerxes was filled with vexation at theſe fruitleſs attempts againſt ſuch a handful of men, and at a loſs what meaſures to purſue in order to effect his purpoſe, a perfidious Greek, whoſe treachery will be handed down to poſterity with deriſion and contempt, offered to conduct a body of 20,000 Perſians acroſs the mountains by a different paſſage, who might attack in the rear the brave and patriotic band of Grecians, while the reſt of the Perſian army ſhould aſſault them in front.

This plan Xerxes immediately adopted, and prepared to carry into execution: 20,000 of the braveſt of the Perſians were diſpatched upon the expedition. All night they marched inceſſantly, and the rays of the morning ſun brought them acroſs the mountains.

Meanwhile, Leonidas, by means of a fugitive, had got information of the march of this body of Perſians; and accordingly called a council of war, in order to conſult what meaſures he ought to purſue upon this alarming occaſion. Thoſe of the other ſtates of Greece, the Spartans only excepted, unanimouſly agreed that it was neceſſary to quit a poſt which it now

ſeemed impoſſible longer to defend. But Leonidas bravely declared, that, whatever the other ſtates might do, he and the Spartans would, at the hazard of their lives, defend that place which their duty and their country called upon them to defend.

One ſtate only, conſiſting of about 700 men, reſolutely agreed to remain with the Spartans and their brave commander, while the reſt, impelled more by fear than patriotiſm, thought proper to march into the interior parts of Greece. Leonidas alſo detained a ſmall body of Thebans, on account of the ſuſpected treachery of their ſtate. The Spartan troop amounted only to about 300 men; a ſmall band, but a band reſolved to die or to ſave their country.

Theſe patriotic troops beſought their commander to devote the important interval, before the arrival of the Perſians, to the glory and ſafety of their country. With this reſolution the undaunted Leonidas inſtantly complied. Having, therefore, with a full meal, prepared his little army for a long-continued and inceſſant fatigue, they marched with ardour, in the dead of the night, to attack the Perſian camp.

The army of the Perſians maintained no ſtrict military diſcipline, and were even diſtruſtful of one another. The ſudden and impetuous attack, therefore, of the Greeks, heightened by all the terrors of midnight, ſtruck a univerſal panic over the whole army; and a much greater number were ſlain by the hands of their own countrymen than by the arms of the Greeks. The morning ſun preſented to the eyes of the Perſians a diſmal ſcene of carnage, at the ſame

time

time they also perceived the small number of the enemy, which their fears had before much increased. By this time the Greeks had made good their retreat to their former station, and again prepared to act with new vigour.

The Persian monarch was fired with fury when he understood the success and number of his antagonists, and gave immediate orders to pursue them. His soldiers obeyed with reluctance the command of their officers, and began, with trepidation, a new engagement with the late brave and successful foe. The Greeks received the charge with an enthusiastic and desperate valour, animated with their late success. The dreadful havoc made among the Persians marked how well their blows were aimed; but, unfortunately, some distant dart pierced the heart of the brave Leonidas, and brought him lifeless to the ground. The contest was now desperate for the body of their commander.

When the Persian troops, who had made their way over the mountains, began to appear, the Greeks retreated to a spot where they could most conveniently defend themselves. But the infamous treachery of the Thebans conspired to occasion their destruction. That perfidious band deserted their countrymen, and went over with open arms to the Persians, an action which will brand their name with eternal infamy. The remainder of the Greeks bravely fell, buried among the showers of the Persian darts.

Peace

Peace to the memory of theſe brave patriots, and may their names be handed down with admiration to lateſt poſterity!

While theſe operations were tranſacting at Thermopylæ, the Perſian fleet ſuffered a ſevere diſaſter at ſea, by a dreadful ſtorm, which deſtroyed a great number of their ſhips. This misfortune obliged them to quit their preſent inſecure ſtation, and ſail for the Pegaſian Bay, near Artemiſium, where at that time the Grecian fleet was ſtationed.

The approach, however, of the ſtill immenſe fleet of the Perſians, notwithſtanding their late diſaſter, made the Greeks think of quitting their ſtation; but this reſolution was prevented from taking effect, by Themiſtocles, the Athenian commander, who bravely encouraged his countrymen to prepare for an engagement. The Perſians, ſecure of victory, had diſpatched a conſiderable number of their ſhips to intercept the retreat or flight of the enemy. Of this circumſtance the Greeks were informed, and reſolved to attack them during the diminution of their force. The engagement was begun with vigour on the ſide of the Greeks, who took ſeveral and ſunk more of the enemies ſhips. But night, with a diſmal ſtorm, put an end to the engagement; and, while the Greeks retired ſafely within the harbour of Artemiſium, the Perſians were expoſed to all the fury of the waves. The Pegaſian Bay, however, protected them from experiencing a diſaſter, which thoſe veſſels which had been diſpatched to intercept the Greeks felt in all its fury. That ſquadron having ſtood too far out to ſea,

and

and the ſtars, the only compaſs of the ancients, being covered from their view, was toſſed about by the fury of the elements, and periſhed upon the rocks of an unknown ſhore. Next day, the Greeks were reinforced by a number of Athenian ſhips. Inſpired with new confidence, they therefore determined again to attack the fleet of the enemy. The Barbarians, during this engagement, aſhamed of their former loſs, and dreading the reſentment of their ſovereign, made a more vigorous reſiſtance than they were accuſtomed to do. The victory, therefore, though decidedly in favour of the Greeks, was bought with conſiderable loſs; as the Greeks, after the retreat of the enemy, were obliged to quit the harbour of Artemiſium, on account of the ſhattered condition of their fleet. Xerxes conſidered this retreat as equal to a victory.

That monarch now marched in proceſſion through the Paſs of Thermopylæ into the interior parts of Greece; but the inhabitants, inſtead of ſurrendering or offering their ſervices to the king, fled to the moſt inacceſſible parts of the mountains, while the Perſians laid waſte the country, and burnt their cities. When the army of Xerxes reached the confines of Attica, the Athenians, in a manner which cannot enough be admired, tranſported their wives, children, and parents, to ſome iſlands in the Ægean Sea, while thoſe, who were able to bear arms, went aboard the fleet, and entirely abandoned their country, their cities, and even their houſehold-furniture, to the Perſians.

Xerxes had by this time augmented his fleet to its former ſtrength, and ſeemed deſirous to riſk another

engagement

engagement at ſea. An action was brought about by Themiſtocles, an Athenian commander, who, dreading that the Greek confederates would deſert their preſent favourable ſituation at Salamis, ſent a faithful domeſtic to Xerxes, to inform him, that the Greeks were preparing to make their eſcape during cover of the night.

Xerxes, upon this information, gave orders for his fleet to get under way, and bend their courſe direct to Salamis; but, upon their arrival at that place, inſtead of finding the Grecian fleet preparing in confuſion for a flight, it was preſented to their view drawn up in order of battle.

The engagement was begun, early in the morning, with fury on both ſides; but the bravery and good conduct of the Grecians was almoſt irreſiſtible. The Perſian fleet, notwithſtanding the vaſt ſuperiority of its numbers, was totally defeated, and many of their ſhips taken and deſtroyed. After this important victory obtained by the Greeks, Xerxes reſolved to return with diſgrace into Aſia; and ſuch is the obſcurity in which he returned into his own dominions, that it is reported he croſſed the Helleſpont in a fiſhing-boat.

Mardonius was left commander-in-chief of the remains of the Perſian army, amounting to about 300,000 men, to conquer a country which had reſiſted millions.

This commander remained inactive during the winter, but prepared for a new and vigorous campaign upon the approach of ſpring.

He

He began his operations with an unſucceſsful attempt to detach the Athenians from the Greek confederacy; but a much better ſucceſs attended his negotiations among the other ſtates of Peloponeſus, who were all brought to deſert the common cauſe.

The Athenians, though now left alone to maintain the liberty of their country, and though offered advantageous terms by Mardonius, firmly refuſed to comply; and again left their country, and took refuge in their ſhips.

Admiration of the magnanimous conduct of the Athenians, and aſhamed at their own mean puſillanimous deſertion, at laſt brought the Spartans, and ſome other ſtates of Greece, to take up arms, and again aſſiſt the Athenians in repelling the common foe.

The Athenians, thus reinforced by theſe ſtates, made up an army of about 40,000 men, with which they reſolved to attack Mardonius. A general engagement was at laſt brought on at Platæa. The ſuperior numbers of the Perſians, acting without any regular diſcipline or order, were overcome by the magnanimity, courage, and diſcipline, of the Greeks. The death of Mardonius, commander of the Perſians, put an end to the engagement. The barbarians were completely routed. A great number fell in the field of battle, others took refuge in their camp, while a body of 40,000, under the command of Artabazus, with haſty marches, croſſed the Helleſpont, and got ſafe into Aſia before the death of Mardonius was known.

The Greeks, after the defeat of the Perſians, directed their attack upon the enemies camp, which

was ſoon carried without much oppoſition; and, of near 200,000 barbarians who had taken refuge there, not above 2,000 made their eſcape.

On the ſame day that this engagement was fought at Platæa, another not leſs glorious for the Greeks was fought at Mycale.

The Perſian fleet, after its laſt fatal defeat, had remained, during the winter, inactive in the ports of Aſia Minor. The Grecian fleet, on the opening of the campaign, had notice that their antagoniſts could be ſucceſsfully attacked in the harbour of Samos. But, upon their arrival at that port, the Perſians, having notice of their approach, had ſailed for the coaſt of Tonia, drawn their ſhips on ſhore, and ſtrengthened themſelves by a paliſade. The Greeks immediately bent their courſe in purſuit of the enemy; and, notwithſtanding that their number did not amount to above a fourth part of that of the Perſians, they attacked and defeated them with great ſlaughter.

Thus ended this formidable invaſion of Greece, an immortal honour to the brave defenders of their country, and to the confuſion and deſtruction of the invaders.

We read this piece of hiſtory with a degree of pleaſure and admiration. The venerable names of thoſe ancient Grecian heroes who fell in defence of their country, or who ſurvived its honour, will be handed down to lateſt poſterity with increaſed honour and applauſe, while the memory of the invaders will be buried in oblivion or remembered only with contempt.

Allow yourſelves, my countrymen, to be actuated by this celebrated example; an example which clearly points out that unanimity and bravery will overcome an enemy, however formidable. But your ſituation is by no means ſo deſperate as that of the Greeks; you have many reſources which it was impoſſible for that nation to command. Your army and your treaſury is, perhaps, more powerful than at any other period of the hiſtory of this country: be not deficient, then, in unanimity and patriotiſm. Subdue, at this important period, every little animoſity or political opinion. Overlook the conduct of your ſtateſmen and rulers, which may, perhaps, have occaſioned your diſguſt at the preſent management of affairs.

Be unanimouſly aiding and aſſiſting in promoting the views of the patriotic bill for the defence of our country, at preſent pending in Parliament.

Accuſtom yourſelves to the uſe of defenſive arms, and to all the variety of marchings which are neceſſary to prevent your being thrown into confuſion in the hour of battle. Lend every aſſiſtance in your power to tranſport, with expedition, the military baggage and ammunition from place to place, and alleviate the diſtreſſes of thoſe ſoldiers who may happen to be hurt or in danger, in defence of their country. Remove from before the face of the enemy every thing which may tend to aſſiſt or ſupport them, and convince them that every individual Briton is an enemy to the invaders of his liberty and of his country.

Unite,

Unite, then, my countrymen, in one general band, and prepare yourſelves for reſiſting the intended invaſion. Shew to every nation in Europe, that you have not yet loſt the ſpirit of your anceſtors, that your love to your country is ſtill as ardent as theirs, and that death alone ſhall diſable you from defending it. If ſuch is your determined reſolution, no enemy, however powerful, will ever be able to make an impreſſion upon this iſland.

THE END.

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